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The University of Dayton

News Release

"VERDICT" BROUGHT TO LIFE IN UD THEATRE

DAYTON, Ohio, March 16, 1983 -- The curtain of the University of Dayton's Boll Theatre will open Thursday, March 24 at 8 p.m. and the Performing and Visual Arts Department will present Agatha Christie's "Verdict." Performances will also be given Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

According to director Robert Bouffier, S.M., Christie considered "Verdict" her best play except for "Witness for the Prosecution." There are no surprises in "Verdict"--the murder of Karl's wife occurs on stage, in full view of the audience, so that everyone takes part in identifying the villain simultaneously, except the police. The mystery is whether or not justice will be blind and the scales balanced by the play's end.

In "Verdict," everyone is a victim. One almost cannot help but feel that each of the characters receives his measure of poetic justice. The main characters, Karl (David Lee Dutton) and Anya Hendryck (Jaye Liset), are German political exiles living in England, unceremoniously evicted from their homeland for sheltering the family of one of Karl's colleagues. Karl and his friend were university professors; the friend was condemned for his political beliefs, and Karl, in aiding the man's family, was guilty by association.

Karl is a gentle, yet persistent man, and before the second act closes, his wife's cousin, Lisa Koletzky (Julie Emmert), has had her fill of this man quietly plodding through life with his very strong beliefs in tow.

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Anya Hendryk, Karl's wife, is an increasingly bitter invalid who realizes what a burden she has become and continues to remind everyone within earshot of that fact.

Perhaps more of a victim than anyone else in the play is Lisa. As a victim of the professor's political situation, she is forced to flee her homeland. As victim of her love for the Hendrycks, she allows herself to be trapped as Anya's constant companion, rather than pursue her career as a physicist. And she is trapped within herself, by the same honor-bound actions of which she accuses Karl.

Helen Rollander (Beth Bevenour), a very headstrong, rich debutante without much aptitude for learning, insists on being privately tutored by the professor. Adhering to his firm belief that he should instruct the poor, conscientious plodder and not give in to the fortunes of one who wishes only to flaunt knowledge, the professor is not persuaded to take Helen on until her father, Sir William Rollander (Michael Pelkowski), offers to send Anya for new treatments, in hope of a miracle cure.

In amongst all the drama and sobriety is the Cockney maid, Mrs. Roper (Allison Phillips). She is the type who would not feel conspicuous in the least carting her belongings in an old shopping bag and stealing her master's cigarettes and drinking his tea, all the while gallantly offering to dash off to the store in order to keep the supplies of cigarettes and tea replenished.

Doctor Stoner (Brian Sajko) and Lester Cole (Patrick M. Sayers) round out the cast.

So whodunit? And why? Detective Inspector Ogden (Jeff Raum) would be happy for some assistance in solving what is a mystery only to him. For ticket information, call 229-2545.